

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A dispenser configured to dispense towels selectively treated with a fluid, comprising:

a compartment having an open upper end and being configured to contain at least one

5 dispensable towel therein;

a removable cover, disposable over the open upper end of the compartment to form an enclosure with the compartment;

a towel dispensing conduit, extending through the cover to a top opening of the cover, the conduit defining a path through which the dispensable towel is extracted from the compartment

10 and dispensed from the top opening of the cover; and

a fluid application assembly, associated with the removable cover, the fluid application assembly comprising;

a fluid reservoir, oriented over the compartment when the cover is disposed on the compartment, and being configured to receive and store the fluid therein;

15 a fluid applicator, in fluid communication with the reservoir and being selectively operable by a user to selectively apply the fluid to the dispensable towel as the towel is dispensed from the dispenser.

2. The dispenser of claim 1, wherein the fluid applicator includes a delivery portion

20 directed toward an inside of the towel dispensing conduit, and wherein the towel dispensing conduit circumscribes the dispensable towel as the towel is extracted from the compartment.

3. The dispenser of claim 2, wherein the towel dispensing conduit has a length and includes a substantially rounded cross section, and wherein the delivery portion of the fluid applicator is directed toward the inside of the conduit at substantially a midpoint along the length of the conduit.

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4. The dispenser of claim 3, wherein the fluid applicator includes a selectively operable pump and wherein the delivery portion of the fluid applicator includes a spray nozzle directed toward the inside of the conduit.

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5. The dispenser of claim 3, wherein the towel dispensing conduit includes a circular cross section.

6. The dispenser of claim 2, further comprising a second fluid applicator having a second delivery portion directed toward the inside of the towel dispensing conduit.

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7. The dispenser of claim 1, wherein the towel dispensing conduit extends at least partially through the fluid reservoir and is substantially centered within a cross section of the fluid reservoir.

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8. The dispenser of claim 1, wherein the towel dispensing conduit extends through the fluid reservoir from substantially a bottom of the reservoir to substantially a top of the reservoir.

9. The dispenser of claim 1, further comprising at least one dispensable towel selected from the group consisting of: interfolded towels; a continuous, perforated towel sheet; a continuous, perforated towel sheet formed in a roll; and a continuous towel sheet.

5 10. The dispenser of claim 1, further comprising a plurality of fluid reservoirs, each reservoir being configured to receive and store a different fluid therein.

11. A portable dispenser configured to dispense towels selectively treated with a fluid, comprising:

10 a compartment, configured to contain at least one dispensable towel therein;
a removable cover, disposable on the compartment to form an enclosure with the compartment;

a fluid reservoir;

a fluid applicator, in fluid communication with the reservoir and being selectively
15 operable by a user of the dispenser to apply the fluid to the dispensable towel;

the enclosure having at least two configurations, including:

i) an upright configuration, in which a longitudinal axis of the enclosure is substantially vertical; and

ii) a slanted configuration, in which the longitudinal axis of the enclosure is
20 slanted with respect to vertical;

the fluid applicator and reservoir cooperatively defining a sealed unit to contain the fluid within the cover when the dispenser is oriented in both the upright configuration and the slanted configuration.

12. The dispenser of claim 11, further comprising a towel dispensing conduit, extending through the cover to a top opening of the cover, the conduit defining a path through which the dispensable towel is extracted from the compartment and dispensed from the top opening of the
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13. The dispenser of claim 12, wherein the fluid applicator includes a delivery portion directed toward an inside of the towel dispensing conduit, and wherein the towel dispensing conduit circumscribes the dispensable towel as the towel is extracted from the compartment.

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14. The dispenser of claim 13, wherein the towel dispensing conduit has a length and includes a substantially rounded cross section, and wherein the delivery portion of the fluid applicator is directed toward the inside of the conduit at a midpoint along the length of the conduit.

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15. The dispenser of claim 14, wherein the fluid applicator includes a selectively operable pump and wherein the delivery portion of the fluid applicator includes a spray nozzle directed toward the inside of the conduit.

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16. The dispenser of claim 14, wherein the towel dispensing conduit includes a circular cross section.

17. The dispenser of claim 13, further comprising a second fluid applicator having a second delivery portion directed toward the inside of the towel dispensing conduit.

18. The dispenser of claim 12, wherein the towel dispensing conduit extends at least partially through the fluid reservoir and is substantially centered within a cross section of the fluid reservoir.

19. The dispenser of claim 12, wherein the towel dispensing conduit extends through the fluid reservoir from a bottom of the reservoir to a top of the reservoir.

20. The dispenser of claim 12, further comprising at least one dispensable towel selected from the group consisting of: interfolded towels; a continuous, perforated towel sheet; a continuous, perforated towel sheet formed in a roll; and a continuous towel sheet.

21. The dispenser of claim 12, further comprising a plurality of fluid reservoirs, each reservoir being configured to receive and store a different fluid therein.

22. A method for dispensing towels contained in a compartment and selectively treating the towels with a fluid, comprising the steps of:

extracting a dispensable towel from the compartment, through a towel delivery conduit extending through a removable cover disposed on the compartment, and from a top opening of the cover; and

selectively applying the fluid to the towel as the towel is extracted through the conduit.

23. The method of claim 22, comprising the further step of containing at least a portion of any excess fluid directed to the towel within the towel dispensing conduit.

5 24. The method of claim 22, wherein the step of applying the fluid to the towel includes the further step of applying the fluid to the towel at substantially a midpoint of a length of the towel dispensing conduit.

 25. The method of claim 22, wherein the step of applying the fluid to the towel includes
10 the step of spraying the liquid on the towel.

 26. The method of claim 22, comprising the further step of applying the fluid to the towel from at least two application directions.

15 27. The method of claim 22, wherein the towel dispensing conduit extends at least partially through the fluid reservoir and is substantially centered within a cross section of the fluid reservoir.

 28. The method of claim 22, wherein the towel dispensing conduit extends through the
20 fluid reservoir from a bottom of the reservoir to a top of the reservoir.

29. The method of claim 22, further comprising at least one dispensable towel selected from the group consisting of: interfolded towels; a continuous, perforated towel sheet; a continuous, perforated towel sheet formed in a roll; and a continuous towel sheet.